

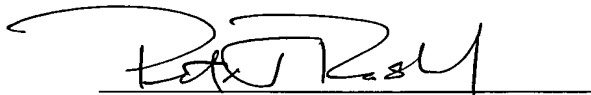
REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Claim 1 is amended, and Claims 7-9 are added. In addition, the specification is amended to more clearly define that the in-mold coating 19 comprises paint having a thickness in a range between about 10-50 μ , such as, vinyl, acrylic, polyurethane paints and the like. In addition, Claim 1 is amended to define that the in-mold coating comprises a water-based or a solvent-based paint, and new Claims 7 and 8 further define various characteristics of the in-mold coating. New Claim 9 further defines that the closed mold tool exerts a pressure of approximately 0.5 to 2.0 tons per square inch. It is respectfully submitted that in-mold coating comprising paint is known to those skilled in the automotive art. Thus, no new matter has been added.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that a method comprising the steps of: 1) introducing an in-mold coating comprising a water-based or a solvent-based paint onto a first mold half of a mold tool, and 2) introducing a work piece material onto a second mold half of the mold tool, wherein the work piece material has a temperature at or above a temperature at which at least a portion of the work piece material is in a molten state, as recited in Claim 1, is not disclosed, taught or suggested in the prior art.

For at least this reason, Claims 1-9 define patentable subject matter. Prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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